

# The Evolution and Interpretation of "Statistical Purposes"

**Sallie Ann Keller, PhD**

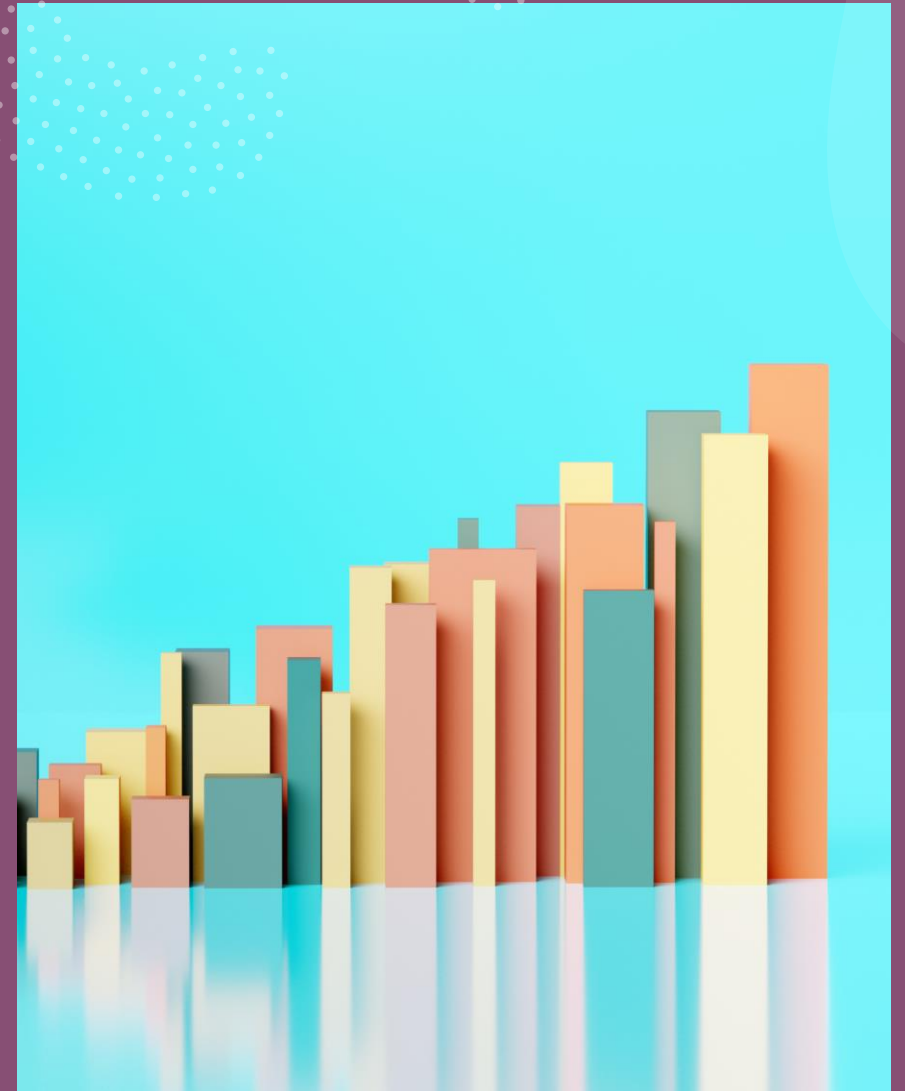
&

**Michael B. Hawes**

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

January 28, 2026

Any viewpoints or opinion's expressed are the presenters' own and do not represent the viewpoints or opinions of the U.S. Census Bureau



## Openness: Do you know why we are collecting your information?

We collect information only for statistical purposes, and it is never used to identify individuals. Before participating, you have the right to know why we

U.S. Census Bureau, [“Our Privacy Principles”](#)

### About confidentiality

Data are used only for statistical purposes. We do not release individual data and reports using NEHRS data, individual an

National Center for Health Statistics,  
[National Electronic Health Records Survey](#)

## Confidentiality of Data Collected

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is strongly committed to ensuring that it is used only for statistical purposes. This policy applies to all contract employees or employees of state agencies working

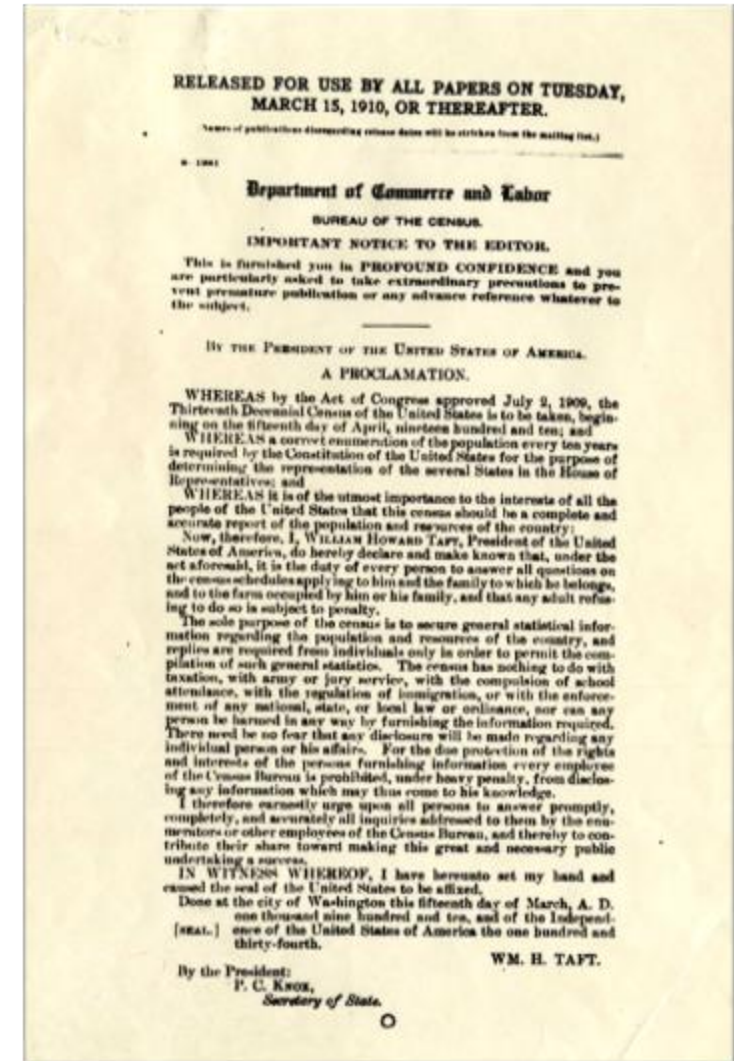
Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
[Import/Export Price Indexes](#)

Amos' bro' over Court	Supreme	2199	1196	
James Gordon	Judge	230	3	3
	(Vice)	232		
Balthus Emrick	Baker	231	1	2
Charles Schultze	Bl Smith	236	4	
Elizabeth Porter	Widow	238		
John Hinckle	potter	240	1	2
	(Vice)	242		
Thomas Mungatoyd	Much	244	1	3
Daniel Russell	Genl	246	2	1
Thomas Mifflin	Genl	248	2	3
Ann Spoke	Widow	250		2
	(Vice)	252		
John T. D. Graham	Genl	254	1	3
Benjamin Shemaker	do	256	1	3
	(Vice)	258		
Henry Kline	Shepherd	260	1	1
	(Vice)	262		
	do	264		
	do	266		
Henry Kream	Shepherd	268	2	1
	(Vice)	270		
Joseph Ogden	Stk Market	270	6	5
William Lowman	Popu Met	272	1	1
Leopold New Houses	(Vice)	274		
	(Vice)	276		
William Hamilton	No Capt	280	1	2
Remains vacant to North Street				
Van Borkel	Minister	2226	1519	3966
Dr. Jefferson	Sec. of State			307
Edmund Randolph	Att. Genl			

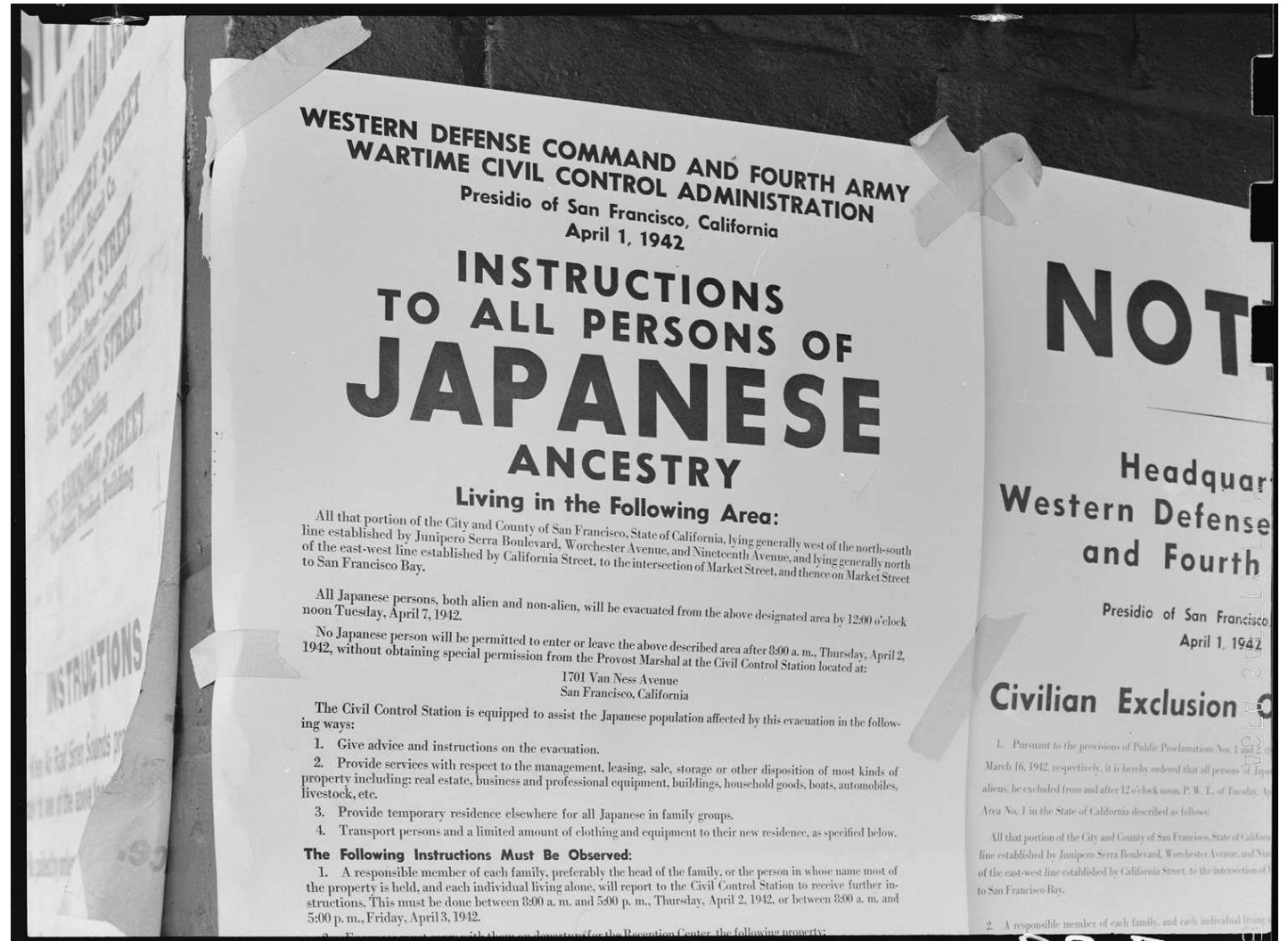
# The 1790 Census and the first hundred years



1910s -  
1920s



# The Second World War



UNITED STATES  
CODE  
ANNOTATED  
TITLE XIII  
CENSUS

Final report of the  
Privacy Protection  
Study Commission

*Joint hearing before the Committee on Governmental  
Affairs, United States Senate and a subcommittee of  
the Committee on Governmental Operations, House  
of Representatives, Ninety-fifth Congress, first  
session, July 12, 1977*


United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on  
Governmental Affairs.



Reprints from the collection of the  
University of Michigan Library

1950s-  
1970s





1990s-2010s

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# Looking Ahead

“Statistical Purposes” and the Future of Federal Statistics



# Preserving “Statistical Purposes” While Increasing Access to Government Data and Statistics



# Executive Order 14303

<sup>I</sup>Restoring Gold Standard Science

Executive Orders

May 23, 2025



## Information Quality Act (2001)

- Directs OMB and federal agencies to issue guidelines on data quality

## OMB Information Quality Guidelines (2002)

- Requires agencies to establish standards for ensuring data quality

## Statistical Policy Directives #1 (2014) and #2 (2006)

- Establishes minimum data quality standards for the federal statistical system

## Census Bureau Statistical Quality Standards

- Extension and elaboration of OMB's guidelines for Census Bureau information products

## E.O. 14303 Restoring Gold Standard Science (May 2025)

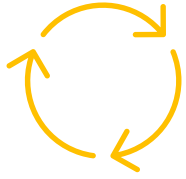
- Directs OSTP to issue guidance
- Directs agencies to report to OSTP on their activities

## OSTP Memo (June 2025)

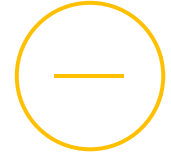
- Elaborates on the 9 tenets of Gold Standard Science

*Professional Codes of Practice and other Frameworks*

# Tenets of Gold Standard Science



Reproducible



Accepting of Negative  
Results as Positive  
Outcomes



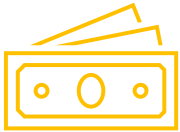
Skeptical of Findings  
and Assumptions



Communicative of  
Error and Uncertainty



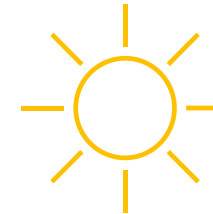
Structured for  
Falsifiability of  
Hypotheses



Without Conflict of  
Interest



Unbiased Peer Review



Transparent



Collaborative and  
Interdisciplinary

Scientific Rigor,  
Professional Codes of Practice,  
Internal & External Peer Review



# Questions

